

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NEA-06 AF-04 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /075 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6789

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: US - JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

REF: STATE 270050

1. GOJ HAS PROBLEMS WITH FEBRUARY 27-28 DATES SUGGESTED REFTEL AND HOPES THAT CONSULTATIONS CAN BE POSTPONED UNTIL LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. MIDDLE EASTERN AND AFRICAN AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL MURATA TOLD EMBOFF DEC 17 THAT DATES CONFLICT WITH POSSIBLE VISIT OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT TO TOKYO AND MEETING OF KEY JAPANESE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS STATIONED IN OIL PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR LATE FEBRUARY. TIMING OF SADAT VISIT STILL VERY MUCH IN AIR, SINCE HIS SCHEDULE DEPENDENT, AS JAPANESE UNDERSTAND, ON POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. FINALLY, BUDGET SQUEEZE MAKES ANY BUT HIGHEST LEVEL TRAVEL DIFFICULT UNTIL SECOND QUARTER. MURATA APOLOGIZED THAT FEBRUARY DATES INCONVENIENT. HE REITERATED HIS STRONG BELIEF IN HIGH VALUE OF CONSULTATIONS AND HOPE THAT LATER DATE WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO AMERICAN SIDE. AT SAME TIME, HE STATED THAT ANY AMERICAN EXPERTS ABLE TO TRAVEL TO TOKYO FOR CONSULTATIONS IN LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH WOULD BE WELCOMED, AND SCHEDULES BENT TO FIT THEIR CONVENIENCE.

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2. COMMENT: IN ADDITION, JAPANESE MAY PREFER IF
ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING, TO AVOID NECESSITY FOR
EXPLAINING TO ARABS REASON FOR DIRECT OFFICIAL TALKS
WITH WASHINGTON ON MIDEAST POLITICAL SITUATION SO
SOON AFTER UNGA (GOJ ABSTENTIONS AT UNGA ON PLO RUFFLED ARABS)
AND DURING WHAT PROMISES TO BE BUSY SEASON FOR CONSULTATIONS
AMONG OIL CONSUMER NATIONS.
HODGSON

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